

RECEDING FLOODS DISCLOSE HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE AND FEARFUL SUFFERING IN THREE STATES; 250,000 HOMELESS FACE FOOD FAMINE; PROPERTY LOSS NOW ESTIMATED AT \$25,000,000

TOLL OF DEATH BIG IN DAYTON; MANY DYING

**Messenger From Stricken
City Tells First Real Story
of Horror—Fire Adds
to Terror.**

How Torrent Broke Into Dayton

The breaking of the banks of the Loraine reservoir in Shelby county yesterday morning sent a wall of water roaring some hundred miles down the Great Miami and Mad rivers. The impact against the levees at Dayton was terrific, and that in North Dayton was first to give way.

That breach in the dike gave the waters greater power, and at 8 o'clock last night the levee at Main street bridge broke. The river roared through and inundated a huge zone in the heart of the city a mile and a half wide.

The Main street bridge, of concrete, was swept away like paper, and the Fifth street bridge (steel) was lifted from its abutments and jammed against a railroad bridge downstream. Dynamiting brought little relief. The break in the levee is fifteen feet wide, and the depth of water ranges from six to thirty feet. Hundreds of houses were swept off their moorings, and it is estimated that 30,000 are homeless.

DAYTON, Ohio, March 26.—(By messenger to Lebanon, Ohio)—Dayton today is a city of the dead, the dying, the homeless, and the grief-stricken. Its tragic story will not be known until the last body has been taken from the flood that covers half the city and the last charred body from the ruins of the fire that is spreading unchecked through the southern section.

The whole story never will be told—the heroism of men; the martyrdom of women; the mad hysteria that seized some and caused them to jump into the flood and death; the torture of despair that gripped those who, imprisoned in their homes by the water, waited in vain for help until the advancing flames came and destroyed them.

Shoots Suffering Family.

A man marooned with his family on the roof of his home shot and killed his wife and three children and then himself rather than to suffer death in the flames, according to a report received by J. J. Munsell, employment superintendent of the National Cash Register Company, from a man who actually saw the occurrence. The bodies floated away on the floods.

There may be a hundred dead or a thousand. The census of the dead cannot be taken until the water recedes and leaves its prey behind.

A big sturdy man is crying like a child here at the offices of the National Cash Register Company, where nearly 1,000 homeless flood victims are sheltered. He has been to the hospitals, the schools, where refugees are housed, to the churches—at none of these is his family.

Money Loss Is Great.

The money loss is heavy, but nobody cares about about money loss, though it runs into the millions.

Dayton, once prosperous, proud, and wealthy, today found that money is the most useless thing in the world in this hour of disaster.

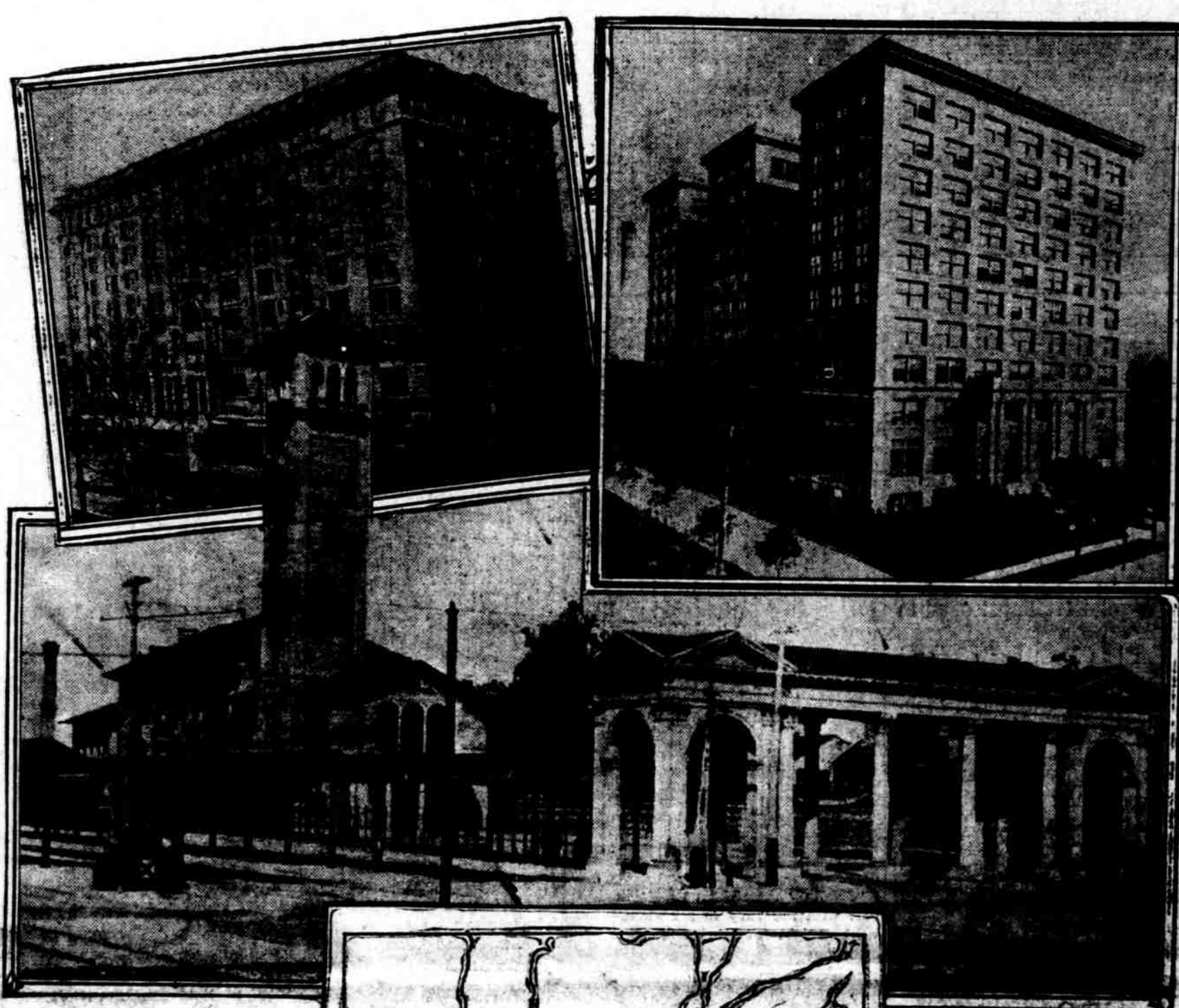
Dayton doesn't want money. It asks for food, for clothing, for nurses, for doctors, and for medicine.

"Don't send us money, we can't use it," said J. C. Hale, of the National Cash Register Company, who is in charge of the relief work.

This dispatch is written at a place a mile from the center of the flood zone, which is the center of the city, where the banks, the skyscrapers, the hotels, and the department stores are located.

Between the city and safety there is a whirlpool. Only a mile intervenes, but it might be one thousand miles or five thousand, for no word of what happened beyond the whirl.

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ONLY ONE TRAIN IS HERE FROM WEST

**Cleveland Flyer, Skirting Flood
District, Arrives at Station
Six Hours Late.**

There are no Western trains running into Washington today. The city is not linked by rail with the stricken section of mid-Ohio, for no train has succeeded in fighting its way into Pittsburgh from the West.

There is only one exception to this fact—the Cleveland flyer, skirting the northern edge of the flood district, limped into Union Station, six hours late, at 1:50 o'clock this afternoon. It found heavy going in the Mahoning valley, just north of Pittsburgh, and is the sole link of communication between the seaboard and the middle West today.

"No report" is the sign hanging out on the Union Station bulletin board regarding the 12:35, the 12:35 and the 8:35 Pennsylvania trains en route from Chicago. None of these trains is within striking distance of Pittsburgh, and the dispatcher's office asserts it is entirely without information as to where they are stalled.

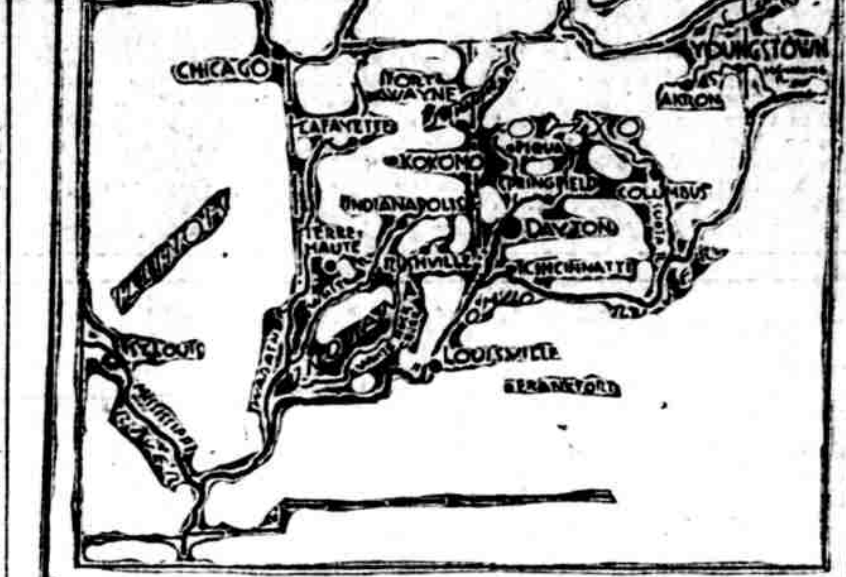
The Chesapeake and Ohio train from Chicago and other Western points, due at 12:15 o'clock, arrived at Union Station at 2:30 o'clock. This train luckily made its way through southern Indiana without being seriously impeded by the floods.

The lack of train service in the stricken districts, emphasized by the paralysis of Western traffic at the Union Station, makes the work of relief difficult, if not impossible. Information received at the Postoffice Department indicates that no trains are now running in the region bounded by Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus, Cincinnati, Terre Haute, and the Ohio river. Bridges have been washed out in many places and other water is flowing many feet above the tracks. It is expected to be days, if not weeks, before passenger traffic is restored to its normal condition.

Wilson Greets Pupils Of First College Class

President Wilson today met four members of the first class he taught when a professor of political economy at Princeton University. Among his first callers today were W. J. Lamber, John H. Hanna, Charles A. McKenny, and G. Thomas Dunlap, of Washington, who were members of the class of 1892.

Philadelphia Excursion
Next Sunday, March 30, Pennsylvania Railroad, \$2.50 round trip. Special train leaves Washington 7:20 a. m. \$2.25 to Chester and return; \$2.00 to Wilmington and return. Consult Ticket Agents—Adv.



Upper Left—Hotel Algonquin, the Water at Its Height Reached to the Third Floor. Upper Right—A Portion of the National Cash Register Plant Where Hundreds of the Homeless Ones Are Housed. Center—Union Station, Partially Submerged. Bottom—Map of Flooded States. All Pictures Copyrighted, 1906, By L. H. Nelson Co., Portland, Me.

MORE THAN 250,000 HOMELESS IN OHIO

**Reports of Loss of Life and
Property Meager Because of
Paralyzed Communication.**

COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 26.—With more than 250,000 driven from their homes, whole towns laid waste, and loss of life that cannot be estimated, Ohio lay prostrate today before a flood that showed no signs of abatement.

Reports that reached Columbus today from the stricken cities were meager because railroad facilities were paralyzed and only occasionally was Columbus able to get a telegraph or telephone connection.

"This is one of the most terrible catastrophes in the history of Ohio," said Governor Cox early today.

After working all night in the adjutant general's office in the State house, officers of the Ohio National Guard reported this morning that they had succeeded in assembling 3,500 militiamen, ready for service in the flood district.

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**Envoy's Lost Wallet
With \$700, Is Found**
F. A. Lima, a special envoy from Salvador to the United States, who reported to the police yesterday that he had lost or had stolen from his person a wallet containing \$700, notified headquarters this afternoon that it had been found. Senor Lima did not state in what manner the wallet was recovered.

MORE THAN HUNDRED ARE KILLED IN INDIANA

**Some Estimates Place Loss of
Life at Thousand, and
Property Damage in Millions.**

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 26.—Paralyzed by a tie-up of industry and transportation, with heavy loss of life reported from several cities and property damage estimated in the millions, Indiana today suffered from the worst flood in its history. The loss of life in the State will be more than 100. Some estimates are 1,000.

Peru was the worst sufferer. The village of Brookville, in the southeastern part of the State, was wiped out, but communication was cut off and it is impossible to learn how many were drowned.

The entire Wabash valley is a desolate scene, its scores of prosperous cities absolutely paralyzed and cut off from the outer world. The loss of life along the whole length of the river will be very large, it is feared. Wires are down everywhere, trains are not running and roads have been obliterated so that confirmation of the wild rumors is impossible.

Floods Still Rising.
Rain is still general over the State after sixty hours of steady downpour, and the flood has not reached its crest.

Appeals for State aid have reached Governor Ralston from Peru and Brookville. Relief measures have been undertaken.

Indianapolis has suffered \$3,000,000 property loss already, and the destruction is growing worse. Two bridges valued at half a million dollars were washed away. Ten thousand houses are flooded.

The homeless are being cared for by friends and relatives, and in public buildings. State troops are on duty on the limits of the damaged area. The finest residential section of the city is flooded. It was thought to be immune from high water.

Big Loss of Life Feared.
Fearful shrieks in the dark when the West Washington bridge gave way, letting in a high torrent on a residential section gave rise to the belief that many persons perished.

At Broad Ripple, a suburb, where the White river flood is at its worst, a thousand families were roused at 2 o'clock this morning to escape the oncoming waters.

\$2.50—Philadelphia and Return.
\$2.25—Chester and return; \$2.00—Wilmington and return; Pennsylvania Railroad next Sunday. Special train leaves Washington 7:20 a. m. Consult Ticket Agents for further particulars.—Adv.

OHIO, INDIANA, PENNSYLVANIA ARE HARD HIT

**Fatalities Reported in Score
of Towns—Houses and
Bridges Washed Away.
Troops Go to Aid.**

Summary of Flood Damage

OHIO: Miami river valley flooded, inundating Dayton, Piqua, Troy, Sidney, Miamiburg, Hamilton and a dozen smaller towns. Many dead in Dayton. Mad river valley—West Liberty and Springfield flooded. Scioto river overflowed, inundating part of Columbus. Delaware, on the Olentangy river, flooded, twenty-five reported dead and 400 homeless. Lima flooded by Ottawa river. Zanesville—Muskingum river flooding city; 2,000 already homeless; Sixth street bridge swept away.

INDIANA: Peru—Twenty reported dead. Indianapolis flooded by White river; 10,000 homes inundated. Fort Wayne flooded; all lights gone; water famine threatened. Marion, Ellettsburg, Broad Ripple, La Fayette, Rushville, Muncie, and Noblesville partly under water. Richmond—Twenty bridges torn down, many homeless. Kokomo flooded by Wild Cat creek; 1,200 homeless. Shelbyville flooded. Logansport city isolated; houses washed away. Terre Haute—Wabash flooding residence section.

Slowly receding waters in middle-western Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania this afternoon disclose a heavy loss of life and property losses of many millions in a score of cities. The death list cannot yet be estimated, but that it will run into the hundreds seems certain.

Wild estimates place the number of dead at anywhere from 500 to 6,000, but as fragmentary facts filter out of the devastated areas over crippled wires, it is believed that these cannot be true.

Conservative statements place the fatalities at Dayton, Ohio, at a little more than 100.

At Delaware, Ohio, it is thought that nineteen were killed.

Greatest Flood in Years.

The gigantic floods appear to have surpassed all records of recent years in the scope of their destructiveness. That 500,000 persons have been rendered homeless and property damaged to the extent of half a billion dollars appears certain.

In Ohio the Miami river valley, including the towns of Dayton, Hamilton, and Piqua, is an eighty mile long strip of devastation.

The Wabash river, bursting its banks at Peru, Ind., has brought havoc upon town after town throughout its length. Indianapolis and other cities on the White river are inundated.

Throughout other sections of both States the smaller rivers have flooded towns and hamlets by the score and passing eastward the rising of the waters now threatens to visit similar destruction upon the vicinity of Pittsburgh, Wheeling, and other cities on the Ohio and Allegheny rivers.

Reports from small towns near Piqua, Sidney, Middletown, and Hamilton which reached here today via telephone and telegraph and brought by men on horseback and afoot all tell of devastation and death throughout the great Miami valley.

Thousands are camped on the hills, without food or protection from the cold winds and rain.

The number of homeless was estimated at 80,000 in the section surrounding the above named towns. The property loss will run between \$20,000,000 and \$50,000,000.

In Cleveland and in the northern part of the State the

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